



Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain Region)
State Agencies (Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas)
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Great Plains Regions)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain and Prairie Regions)

Final Meeting Minutes January 8, 2002 Sidney, Nebraska

Members Present:

Bob Jacob
Ken Van Zee
Rich Homann
Len Dems
John Glenn
Steve Pedigo
Bill Wallis
Steve Hasenohrl
Darrell Ausborn
Jim Kelton
Casey McCoy
Don Westover
Joyce Feeley
Patrick O'Leary

Guests Present:

Lynn Pisano-Pedigo (Facilitator)
Greg Warner
Tim Mathewson
Russ Mann
Tom Corbin

Members Absent:

Ray Weidenhaft????

Introductions were made and comments were made concerning the *only* missing RMCG member, **Ray Weidenhaft**. The motion was made by Casey McCoy and seconded by Don Westover that the *only* missing RMCG member, **Ray Weidenhaft** be appropriately admonished. All RMCG members agreed!

Bob Jacob passed the Chair position to Len Dems from the National Park Service. Len assumed the Chairmanship and conducted the remainder of the meeting. Many thanks go to Bob for the great job as past Chair.

The agenda was reviewed and changes and additions were made.

Risk Refusal, Steve Pedigo (Attachment A)

There is a Power Point presentation available concerning "How to turn down an assignment". Steve recommended RMCG endorse the new procedures and guidelines. The procedures and guidelines will soon be included in the Interagency Incident Response handbook, the Forest Service Fireline Handbook and the BLM Standards for Fire and Aviation handbook.

Risk Refusal, Steve Pedigo (continued)

- Forest Service is interviewing now for the Lead Plane pilot position.
- The Air Quality Speciality position has been filled.
- There will be a new Hotshot crew stationed in the Southwest corner of Colorado. Startup date will be sometime in July.
- There is a push on to start using Contract crews.

Update/Status of State Wildland Urban Interface Groups, Len Dems

Len asked for an update on how things are working with the states to coordinate the National Fire Plan activities and if RMCG is doing what they need to do to stay abreast of what is happening?

Decision: Yes, RMCG is doing what they need to do but must continue to get periodic updates.

Information/Education Action Plan, Brian Ayres (Attachment B)

- Rich Homann, Liaison for the Information/Education Committee gave the report for Brian Ayres, Committee Chair. The Committee is looking for approval from RMCG on the action items in the handout.

Decision: RMCG approved the action items.

- The state of Colorado has a committee similar to the Information/Education Committee. The two groups are meeting to explore means of providing coordinated messages at an incident. The Committee is suggesting other states do the same.
- Colorado has added an additional county. (Attachment C)
- The Committee suggested RMCG support States having a Wildfire Prevention Proclamation.

(Attachment D)

Decision: RMCG will send a letter of support to each of the 17 Western states, with a copy to each GACG and RMCG members. Brian Ayres will draft the letter with the assistance of Rich Homann. The draft letter will be sent to Len Dems by the end of January.

Dispatch Committee Update, Greg Warner

Greg Warner passed out the minutes of the last meeting. (Attachment E)

The Dispatch Committee is working on two items:

1. Standardizing Dispatch position descriptions for the Rocky Mountain area. They expect to have a final product by the Spring meeting.
2. Dispatch Center facilities – They are developing a template of what should be in a dispatch center. They expect to present the template at the spring meeting.

There was some question about RMCG's stance on the Dispatch Workload Analysis.

Decision: RMCG supports each Center doing a workload analysis if they want to. If the Center chooses to do the analysis, a 3-person team will come in and do it using the template. Bob will write a letter to be signed by Len stating the above decision.

Accomplishments/Plan of Work, Tim Mathewson and Russ Mann

- The Rocky Mountain area Fire Weather Meteorologists presented RMCG with some of their accomplishments as well as some proposals for fire weather data. (Attachment F)
- The National agreement between the Weather Service and the GACC Mets has not been signed yet. The Weather Service still has some concern the GACC Mets are taking over their jobs.
- Tim is proposing the Fire Weather program take on the Smoke Management program. If RMCG decides they would like them to do that more staffing will be needed.
- Tim asked RMCG for additional funding to work with the University of Utah to develop a way of displaying RAWs data and monitor trigger points for critical elements. There was no exact dollar amount Tim was asking for, possibly around \$3000 from each agency. **No decision was made.**

Fire Business Management Issues/Contractors, Kermit Johnson

Kermit asked RMCG if they wanted to or needed to set additional standards for Rocky Mountain area equipment resources? Some Rocky Mountain area equipment was rejected by Northern Rockies due to lack of some qualification or certifications.

- Decision:**
1. RMCG will send a letter to NWCG requesting direction of standards for contractors. Take no further action until we receive direction.
 2. RMCG will remain with the national standards.
 3. RMCG will send a letter to NRCG explaining what happened and ask why they did not accept the equipment which met the national standards. Kermit will draft the letter for Len's signature sometime before the NWCG/GACG Working Team meeting.

How do we deal with R & R for contractors? **Decision:** R & R for contractors is the same for all resources.

Who does inspections? Are we going to require more extensive inspections? **Decision:** Inspections must be done initially by an agency approved inspector, then done again before going out on the fire.

Dispatch Workload Analysis Template, Patrick O'Leary

Patrick does not have the Dispatch Workload Analysis template as mentioned earlier but he will get it. He does not think the template was developed at the the National level.

It is Patrick's recollection that RMCG decided to have all Rocky Mountain Dispatch Centers complete the Workload Analysis.

Decision: RMCG will encourage all Centers to do the Workload Analysis but not require it. Bob Jacob will send a letter to each Dispatch Center and Patrick will get him the template to go with it. Patrick will coordinate people to fill the team to analyze the data.

Issue Paper, AD's on Incident Management Teams, Patrick O'Leary (Attachment G)

Dispatchers are asking for clear direction or a list of every team position an AD may be used for.

Decision: RMCG will defer the issue to the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee will make the recommendations to RMCG after the next Committee meeting on January 31, 2002.

Update: The Operations Committee will obtain and review the National standard for AD's on teams. They will then make recommendations to RMCG.

Issue Paper, Fire Use Teams, Bill Wallis

Bill presented RMCG with 2 issues and proposals concerning Fire Use Teams: (Attachment H)

1. Develop a Fire Use team that will meet National qualification levels for management of higher complexity Fire Use incidents within the area. The team's will focus mainly on the Rocky Mountain area, but will be made available nationally upon NiFC request.

Decision: Have the Operations Committee, immediately, canvas for interest to fill positions on a Fire Use team. Have the Prescribed Fire Committee and the Operations Committee Chairs get together to develop an application and process to fill the team. Present it to RMCG at the spring meeting.

2. Issue #2 dealt with the policy for consistent management of Fire Use incidents. Bill suggests that RMCG review the guidelines in the attachment in case the National procedures are not available by the spring meeting.

Decision: The Prescribed Fire Committee will have a meeting at the end of January. The Committee will change the name and adjust the charter to reflect the new name, "Fire Use Committee".

Long Teams vs. Short Teams (Attachment I)

Patrick O'Leary presented a letter written by Chris Buckman concerning Long Teams and Short Teams. They are asking RMCG to reconsider the decision to go to Long Teams for the 2003 fire season.

Decision: RMCG will give the issue some thought and revisit at a later date.

Hartman IMT Report, Steve Pedigo

There is no final report out yet. It is possible there will be no final report.

Decision: RMCG feels they need a final report to put closure on the situation. Bill Wallis will talk to Carl Gossard about the final report and then RMCG will discuss it again at the next meeting.

Draft MOU with American Red Cross, Steve Pedigo

There is no change with the Mou at this time.

RMCG Charter, Bob Jacob

The Charter was reviewed as a group and additional changes were made. Changes will be made and the charter sent around for signature.

Montana Indian Firefight MOU, Bob Jacob

Bob Jacob will make changes to the MOU and prepare a draft for the next meeting.

Custer Dispatch, Steve Hasenhorl

The Governor has made the money available for a new Dispatch Center at Rapid City. Demolition has begun on the building and the state will bear the cost of remodeling. A Board meeting will be held and headed up by Steve. Operating costs will be figured on a fair share basis. There is no resolution yet as to staffing for the Center but they are looking at 3 – Forest Service dispatchers, 2 – BIA dispatchers and a Center Manager. The name for the new Center is “Northern Great Plains Dispatch Center”.

Update: Len Dems has discussed the name of the new Dispatch Center with the interagency partners. They have been advised of the Rocky Mountain area Dispatch Center naming standards. A name will be chosen depicting the city of residence and a 3-letter designator assigned.

NWCG/GACG Working Team, RMCG Involvement, Bob Jacob

Bob Jacob proposed that this meeting be attended every year by the current and previous Chair of RMCG.

Decision: The NWCG/GACG Working Team meeting will be attended each year by the previous and current RMCG Chair. Len will check his schedule and confirm with Bob if he will be able to attend.

Spring Fire Management Meeting and Awards, Jim Kelton

Jim asked for clarification on RMCG Vice Chair Duties:

1. Is the Spring Fire Management Meeting the duty of the current Vice Chair or the previous Vice Chair because planning for the meeting begins in the previous year?

Decision: The Spring Fire Management Meeting is the responsibility of the Vice Chair for the year the meeting is held.

2. Jim thought RMCG had approved an issue paper proposing an Awards Committee. (Attachment J)

Decision: RMCG rejected the proposal to form a new committee. This does not mean the Vice Chair cannot appoint a committee to assist him with the Awards Program.

Jim asked all RMCG members to submit input on meeting topics, speakers, or any ideas to him as soon as possible. The theme for the meeting at this point is “National Fire Plan, Accomplishments and Success Stories”.

The next RMCG meeting will be at the Spring Fire Management Meeting – April 1-5, 2002, Rapid City, South Dakota. Ramcoda Inn (old Howard Johnson’s)

It was duly noted that all meeting objectives were accomplished in less time than allowed and possibly due to Ray Weidenhaft’s absence.

On Wednesday, RMCG traveled to Sterling, Colorado to visit the Great Plains Wildfire College. RMCG met with the Incident Management Team of the weeklong training session. They were very impressed with the organization as well as the great opportunities presented at the college. There are a tremendous amount of hard work by a few very dedicated people that makes this session an excellent training opportunity. RMCG would like to thank this team for making the visit such a positive experience.

** Action Items from 01/08/02** - Sidney, Nebraska					
ITEM #	ACTION ITEM 1	DUE 2	RESPONSIBLE 3	STATUS 4	PAGE 5
1.	Publically admonish Ray Weidenhaft	ASAP	RMCG	C	1
2.	Endorse the new procedures and guidelines for turning down an assignment.	Now	RMCG	P	1
3.	Support States having a Wildfire Prevention Proclamation.	Jan. 2002	RMCG	C	2
	Draft a letter of support to be sent to Len Dems for signature.	01/31/02	Brian Ayres Rich Homann	P	2
	Send letter of support to each of the 17 Western states, with a copy to each GACG and RMCG member.	02/04/02	Len Dems	P	2
4.	Standardizing Dispatch position descriptions for the Rocky Mountain area and present a final product by the Spring meeting.	04/02/02	Dispatch Committee	P	2
	Develop a template of what should be in a dispatch center, facilities and equipment, and present the template at the spring meeting.				
5.	Encourage all Centers to do the Workload Analysis <u>but not require it</u> .	Spring 2002	Rocky Mtn. Dispatch Centers	P	2
	Coordinate a 3-person team to do the analysis.	ASAP	Patrick O'Leary	P	
	Send the template for the analysis to Bob Jacob.	ASAP	Patrick O'Leary	P	
	Write a letter to each Dispatch Center stating the decision for Workload Analysis.	When template is received.	Bob Jacob	P	
6.	Have a draft of the MOU or Agreement with the American Red Cross on Wildland activities.	04/02/02	Steve Pedigo	P	3
7.	Consider funding for RMA Fire Weather Mets to work with the University of Utah to develop a way of displaying RAWs data and monitor trigger points for critical elements.	Ongoing	RMCG	P	2
8.	Send a letter to NWCG requesting direction on standards for contractors.	ASAP	Kermit Johnson	P	2
	Draft a letter (for Len's signature) to NRCG explaining what happened and ask why they did not accept the equipment which met the national standards.	After receiving direction from NWCG	Kermit Johnson		

9.	Develop clear direction or a list of every team position an AD may be used for. Make recommendations to RMCG after the next Committee meeting on January 31, 2002.	02/04/02	Operations Committee	P	3
10.	Canvas for interest to fill positions on a Fire Use team.	ASAP	Operations Committee	P	3
	Get together to develop an application and process to fill the team. Present it to RMCG at the spring meeting.	04/02/02	Rx Fire Committee & Ops Fire Committee	P	3
11.	Contact Carl Gossard concerning final report on Hartman's team.	ASAP	Bill Wallis	P	3
	Discuss it again at the next meeting.	04/02/02	RMCG	P	3
12.	Reconsider the decision to go to Long Teams for the 2003 fire season.	2002	RMCG	P	3
13.	Look at the current MOU for the Rocky Mtn. Indian Firefighting Program and make recommendations for change and/or additions.	ASAP	RMCG	P	3
	Revise the MOU for the Rocky Mtn. Indian Firefighting Program.	ASAP	BIA people will take the lead.	P	3
14.	Make changes to the RMCG charter send around for signature.	ASAP	Bob Jacob Joyce Feeley	P	3
15.	Make changes to the MOU and prepare a draft for the next meeting.	04/02/02	Bob Jacob	P	3
16.	Attend the NWCG/GACG Working Team meeting each year.	Each year	Previous & current RMCG Chair	P	3
17.	Submit input on meeting topics, speakers, or any ideas for the Spring Fire Management Meeting to Jim Kelton.	ASAP	RMCG	P	3
	Submit Awards nomination with a writeup to Jim Kelton.				
18.	Change name and append charter to reflect name change to "Fire Use Committee".	Next Meeting	Prescribed Fire Committee	P	2